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Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN AUGUST 2006

Domestic primary aluminum production in August was 185,496 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production rate was 5,984 t, about 3% lower that that of the previous month and 11% below the rate for August 2005. The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased in August to $1.170 per pound from $1.196 per pound in July, according to Platts Metals Week. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) fluctuated during August. The price range began the month at 82–84 cents per pound. On August 15, the buying price range increased to 83–85 cents per pound. On August 22, the price range decreased to 81–83 cents per pound and on August 29, it decreased again to 80–82 cents per pound, where it remained through the end of the month.

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot in September held steady at $1.17 per pound. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs trended downward during September. Although the price range increased briefly to 83–85 cents per pound on September 8, it dropped to 81–83 cents per pound on September 12 and decreased to 79–81 cents per pound on September 19. On September 26, the price range decreased again to 77–79 cents per pound and remained at this level through the end of the month.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY[1]

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery[2]			Imports for consumption			Total new supply[3]	Total stocks, end of period[4]
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2005[p]	2,481	1,940	1,060	3,000	3,660	1,190	4,850	10,300	1,430
2005:									
August	208	167	96	262	264	110	374	845	1,510
September	199	157	91	248	282	97	379	827	1,590
October	207	161	95	256	298	94	393	856	1,550
November	204	151	84	236	240	91	330	770	1,440
December	208	143	82	225	299	89	388	821	1,430
January-August	1,662	1,300	764	2,070	2,540	820	3,360	7,090	1,510
2006:									
January	197	168	89	257	348	97	445	898	1,490
February	179	161	84	244 [r]	247	87	333	757	1,680
March	198	168	92 [r]	259 [r]	289	104	393	850 [r]	1,480
April	190	160	88 [r]	248 [r]	353	103	456	894 [r]	1,480
May	197	161 [r]	89 [r]	250 [r]	318	106	424	870 [r]	1,430
June	189	162 [r]	92 [r]	254 [r]	298	109	407	849 [r]	1,430
July	192	165 [r]	92	256 [r]	249	111	360	808	1,430
August	185	166	109	275	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-August	1,527	1,310	735	2,040	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

[r]Revised. NA Not available.

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

[2]Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

[3]Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

[4]Inventory levels reflect total for both U.S. and Canadian producers; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP[1]

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery
2005[r]	1,700	1,310	825	735	926	867	90	80	10	9	3,550	3,000
2005:												
August	151	109	77	69	82	77	8	7	(2)	(2)	319	262
September	148	107	65	58	80	75	8	7	(2)	(2)	302	248
October	154	112	66	59	83	78	8	7	(2)	(2)	312	256
November	138	101	62	55	77	72	8	7	(2)	(2)	285	236
December	129	93	63	56	74	69	8	7	(2)	(2)	274	225
January-August	1,170	849	566	504	694	650	66	58	(2)	(2)	2,500	2,070
2006:												
January	135	100	76	68	87	81	8	7	(2)	(2)	306	257
February	131	96	78	70	76	71	8	7	(2)	(2)	293 [r]	244 [r]
March	141 [r]	103 [r]	81	73	82	77	8	7	(2)	(2)	312 [r]	259 [r]
April	135 [r]	97	80	72	77	72	8	7	(2)	(2)	300 [r]	248 [r]
May	138 [r]	100 [r]	65	58	90	84	8	7	(2)	(2)	301 [r]	250 [r]
June	138 [r]	100	74 [r]	66 [r]	86	81	8	7	(2)	(2)	307 [r]	254 [r]
July	136 [r]	99 [r]	76	68	88	82	8	7	(2)	(2)	308	256
August	167	126	71	64	83	78	8	7	(2)	(2)	330	275
January-August	1,120	821	601	539	669	626	64	56	4	4	2,460	2,040

[r]Revised.
[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
[2]Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN AUGUST 2006[1]

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	139,000	167,000	105,000	126,000
Integrated aluminum companies	71,000	71,000	63,800	63,800
Independent mill fabricators	69,300	83,200	64,800	77,700
Foundries	6,560	7,870	5,760	6,910
Other consumers	536	643	536	643
Total	287,000	330,000	240,000	275,000

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4

PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN AUGUST 2006[1]

(Metric tons)

	August				January-August[2]	
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts[3]	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts[3]	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	17,000 r	82,800	78,900	20,900	622,000	621,000
Can stock clippings	1,340 r	17,700	17,200	1,890	151,000	152,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	4,140 r	22,400	22,300	4,270	174,000	174,000
Casting	1,190 r	9,900	9,700	1,390	63,500	64,100
Borings and turnings	2,920 r	11,700	11,900	2,720	89,200	89,900
Dross and skimmings	3,590	34,800	34,800	3,550	280,000	280,000
Total new scrap	30,200 r	179,000	175,000	34,700	1,380,000	1,380,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	3,180 r	15,500	15,700	2,940	122,000	123,000
Used extrusion	411 r	1,420	1,410	423	9,950	9,960
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	1,370 r	55,700	55,600	1,500	472,000	470,000
Other wrought products	2,340	5,290	5,290	2,340	43,500	43,500
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	23,400 r	14,100	33,300	4,250	94,200	113,000
Total old scrap	30,700 r	92,100	111,000	11,400	741,000	759,000
Sweated pig	198	790	790	198	6,410	6,410
Total all classes	61,100 r	272,000	287,000	46,400	2,130,000	2,150,000

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

[2]Includes revised data from previous month(s).

[3]Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5

ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2006[1, 2]

(Metric tons)

	August				January-August[3]	
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,600 r	2,040	1,600	3,040	11,500	11,300
380 and variations	2,600 r	16,600	17,200	1,940	125,000	128,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,120	1,650	1,660	1,110	13,600	13,600
No. 319 and variations	3,010	4,960	5,750	2,220	46,500	46,000
F-132 alloy and variations	697	1,580	1,600	676	13,700	13,900
Al-Zn alloys	317	487	492	312	1,790	1,770
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	41	24	24	41	193	193
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	283	411	411	283	3,290	3,290
Other[4]	5,020 r	7,820	8,670	4,180	63,900	65,000
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	10,100 r	19,400	19,000	10,500	159,000	159,000
Total all alloys	25,800 r	54,900	56,400	24,300	439,000	442,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	8,700	XX	XX	82,100	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	2,540	XX	XX	20,000	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	816	XX	XX	7,390	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot[5]	XX	42,900	XX	XX	329,000	XX

rRevised. XX Not applicable.

[1]Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

[2]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

[3]Includes revised data from previous months.

[4]Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

[5]No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN JULY 2006[1]

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	July	January-July	July	January-July	July	January-July	July	January-July
Argentina	4,550	30,700	6	79	--	--	4,550	30,800
Australia	5,370	30,800	14	63	36	338	5,410	31,200
Bahrain	7,860	50,600	1,760	9,540	--	--	9,620	60,100
Belgium	7	105	593	3,820	--	122	600	4,050
Brazil	13,700	86,600	2,980	15,700	98	634	16,800	103,000
Canada	162,000	1,180,000	46,400	317,000	28,900	198,000	237,000	1,690,000
China	2,700	22,900	17,200	91,800	1	3	19,900	115,000
France	255	441	319	2,980	18	36	593	3,460
Germany	273	3,650	11,200	71,900	18	196	11,400	75,800
Hungary	--	--	419	1,870	--	--	419	1,870
Italy	--	157	322	1,730	--	--	322	1,890
Japan	62	270	893	10,300	56	494	1,010	11,000
Korea, Republic of	17	97	330	1,860	19	155	365	2,110
Mexico	--	455	1,890	12,400	8,800	72,700	10,700	85,500
Netherlands	84	525	226	1,170	--	102	310	1,800
Norway	39	180	17	153	--	--	56	333
Russia	19,500	394,000	5,670	26,700	--	3,170	25,200	424,000
South Africa	6,410	59,500	5,640	33,300	--	--	12,000	92,900
Spain	--	122	137	792	--	--	137	914
Sweden	2	1,640	253	2,870	--	31	255	4,540
Switzerland	--	1,100	611	3,210	--	--	611	4,310
Tajikistan	--	25,700	--	--	--	--	--	25,700
United Arab Emirates	7,610	61,300	--	3	--	53	7,610	61,400
United Kingdom	169	30,100	395	3,640	38	1,310	602	35,000
Venezuela	14,600	97,400	1,360	10,900	241	1,640	16,200	110,000
Other	3,480	26,700	12,700	92,900	3,450	25,600	19,600	145,000
Total	249,000	2,100,000	111,000	716,000	41,600	304,000	402,000	3,120,000

-- Zero.

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN JULY 2006[1]

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	July	January-July	July	January-July	July	January-July	July	January-July
Australia	5	173	227	1,050	--	42	233	1,260
Belgium	34	793	608	4,510	--	309	642	5,610
Brazil	7	82	589	3,130	--	133	597	3,340
Canada	7,370	76,300	39,000	285,000	10,900	88,100	57,300	450,000
China	528	2,130	2,590	19,900	62,500	540,000	65,600	562,000
Czech Republic	--	(2)	4	85	--	--	4	85
Dominican Republic	13	83	19	173	7	40	39	296
France	6	69	701	7,850	--	4	708	7,930
Germany	44	268	761	6,530	6	114	811	6,910
Hong Kong	13	1,050	1,060	5,680	1,170	13,600	2,250	20,300
India	31	203	46	318	404	4,470	480	4,990
Israel	40	740	232	2,360	--	--	272	3,100
Italy	5	392	348	3,240	--	--	352	3,630
Japan	658	6,310	1,190	12,700	3,170	27,500	5,020	46,600
Korea, Republic of	51	664	1,130	8,260	11,300	80,900	12,500	89,800
Malaysia	23	38	691	2,120	32	1,700	745	3,870
Mexico	14,200	118,000	23,300	160,000	6,830	62,500	44,400	340,000
Netherlands	7	84	55	415	163	228	225	726
Russia	--	165	20	129	--	--	20	294
Saudi Arabia	--	2	2,450	19,000	--	(2)	2,450	19,000
Singapore	(2)	53	230	1,139	--	--	230	1,193
Spain	(2)	26	90	753	--	7	90	786
Sweden	--	1	6	74	--	--	6	74
Taiwan	35	251	457	5,980	2,640	36,300	3,130	42,500
Thailand	55	1,240	556	4,960	719	8,580	1,330	14,800
Ukraine	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	2
United Kingdom	31	197	1,220	10,900	149	326	1,400	11,500
Venezuela	--	21	153	862	--	1	153	884
Other	494	4,420	3,300	25,100	1,870	25,500	5,660	55,000
Total	23,700	213,000	81,100	592,000	102,000	890,000	207,000	1,700,000

-- Zero.

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

[2]Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.